



The Alien Grammar Show

-Travaux Pédagogiques-

EXERCISE 1

Draw the Alien

In pairs each student has to draw a simple alien on a piece of paper, without showing their partner the picture. The partner then has to ask questions about the picture and try to draw the picture too. Then compare the picture and see if they are the same.

Possible questions (you can think of others) –

How many arms does the alien have?

How many legs does the alien have?

How many heads does the alien have?

What colour is the alien?

Is the alien big or small?

Is the alien fat or thin?

Use comparative adjectives to compare your pictures.

(e.g. my alien is bigger, your alien has smaller eyes, etc.)

EXERCISE 2

Play 'Test That Alien'.

The game is simple and can be played in teams or with individuals. Exercises 2, 3, and 4 have lists of questions where the words are in the wrong order. One or team has to provide the correct answer. If they do the rest of the class shout 'OK!', if they don't the class shout 'Alien!' and the team or person lose a point.



EXERCISE 3

Questions with 'to be'.

This table shows you how to make questions with the verb 'to be'. Some questions, for example 'How are you?' can be made with only the first three columns. Other questions like 'Are you meeting your boyfriend?' can be made by not using the first column.

Who		I	with
What	am	you	from
Where	are	she	doing
Why	is	they	listening to Scooter
When		the aliens	going
How		your friends	meeting your boyfriend

- i) *Make as many good questions as you can.*
- ii) *Look at these questions. The words are in the wrong order. Put them in the right order.*

you how are?

Name your what is?

Doing you what are?

Friends are where your?

Where from are the aliens?

With she is who?



Exercise 4

Questions with the auxiliary verb 'to do'.

This table shows you how to make questions with the auxiliary verb **'to do'**. Some questions like 'Do the aliens go to school?' can be made by not using the first column.

Who		I	do.
What	do	you	live.
Where	does	she	watch Superstar.
Why	did	they	come.
When		the aliens	like.
How		your boyfriend	go to school.

- i) Make as many good questions as you can.
- ii) Look at these questions. The words are in the wrong order. Put them in the right order.

live you where do?

come you from do where?

how to they do school go?

she Lucie Bílá does like why?

the aliens did when come?

yesterday your Superstar did watch boyfriend?



Exercise 5

The difference between questions concerning the subject and the object of a sentence.

Look at this sentence.....

Barbie *sings* loudly on her birthday.

- If the answer to a question is 'on her birthday', the question has the auxilliary verb 'to do'.

When does Barbie sing loudly?

- If the answer to a question is 'loudly', again the question has the auxilliary verb 'to do'.

How does Barbie sing on her birthday?

- If the answer to a question is 'sings', again the question has the auxilliary verb 'to do'.

What does Barbie do on her birthday?

But.....

If the answer is '**Barbie**' (i.e. the subject of a sentence) the question is does not have the auxilliary verb 'to do'.

Who sings loudly on her birthday?



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Try to make questions from this sentence. If the answer is the subject, then you do not need to use 'do', 'does', or 'did', but if it is not the subject then you need to use 'do', 'does', or 'did'.

David writes love poems after school.

If the answer is 'love poems' the question is

What

If the answer is 'after school' the question is

When

If the answer is 'writes' the question is

What

If the answer is '**David**' the question is

Who



Here are some more sentences to practice making questions with.

The aliens eat hamburgers. (3 questions)

They give flowers to their teacher once a year. (5 questions)

Notes for Teachers

Some Comments on the Play

The Alien Grammar Show has been designed mainly as an entertaining way for 6^e and 5^e to practice asking questions, to practice using comparative adjectives and to simply enjoy themselves at an English language performance. However, this show does also introduce some questions about tolerance to minorities and people from other cultures, and even some questions of world politics. The discussion topics and activities on this page are for in case you want to discuss some of these issues with your class. However, these are major moral issues so you may also decide that they are not suitable for discussion or that your class is not mature enough to discuss them yet. This, of course, is your decision.

At the end of the performance the students decide if the aliens can go home or not. (We recommend that you do not tell the students this before the performance.) The play has two endings, and which one the actors play depends on what the children decide. At the beginning of the play the aliens are clearly drawn as the enemy and the Men in Black ask the children to help them kill the aliens. However the aliens are not aggressive and do not hurt anybody and the Men in Black are really quite silly, so we hope that by the end of the show the children's sympathy will move away from the Men in Black and towards the aliens. We hope that they will not kill them but that they will let them go home, but we have not fixed the play to make this happen.

The students have to act against the authority which is established at the beginning. So there is a discussion topic on duty and the students' relationship to authority.



The aliens in the show are noticeably different, they move in an unusual way and they speak a nonsense language that we don't understand, so another question topic regards the student's relationship to people from other cultures.

Activities (for after the performance)

- This performance is unusual because it has two different endings depending on how the children react. In the performance you saw did all of the aliens fly home or was one of them killed by the Men in Black?

Look at these words. Which ones would you use to describe the Aliens, which ones describe the Men in Black? (Some words may be good for both; some words may not be good for either.)

Dangerous Aggressive Beautiful Sad Friendly
Excited Silly Peaceful Strange Fun

Did you feel closer to the Aliens or to the Men in Black?

- Gibberish scenes. In small groups prepare some very short acted scenes with some action (not fighting – or if fighting then in very slow motion). The scenes should show life of imaginary people from another country. Invent special gestures and nonsense words that mean hello, I am not happy, I love you, I am hungry. What do they do that is different? How do they eat and drink? Give a short presentation of your people for the other students.

Discussions

Authority

In the beginning of the play Agent Wood and Agent Tree told you „We work for the president of the United States of America. We are very important.“

We all have to listen to authority sometimes. Even your parents and teachers have to listen to their bosses and we all have to listen to the police and the law. When is it



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right to not listen to people in authority. Can you think of a (unusual) situation when it is right to go against.....

i) Your parents
Republic

ii) a policeman

iii) The president of The Czech

Other Cultures

Do you have any experience of meeting people from other cultures? Asian? Arab/Muslim? Russian? American? African?

Which of these cultures do you feel most comfortable with? Which ones do you not trust? How would you feel if all of your neighbours were from one of these cultures? How would you feel if your brother or sister married somebody from one of these cultures?

Thank you for bringing your students to see this show. We hope that you all enjoy it.